

Missing Girl Hunted

(Story in adjoining column)



Georgia Jean Weckler, 8, who disappeared at Fort Atkinson, Wis. [Associated Press Wirephoto]

POSSES SEEKING GIRL MISSING FOR THIRD DAY

Fort Atkinson, Wis., May 3 [Special]—The hunt for Georgia Jean Weckler, 8, entered its third day today with posses searching the countryside near her farm home. Agents of the federal bureau of investigation reportedly had been called in to aid the search.

The girl's father, George C. Weckler, announced his belief she had been kidnaped and offered a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the abductor's arrest and conviction. Neighboring farmers began adding to the reward offer.

Heard Girl in Car

The kidnaping theory apparently was bolstered by information given Fort Atkinson Police Chief Harry O. Mueller by Sam Klement, a retired farmer living here. Klement said he heard, but did not see, a girl in a black automobile parked near a downtown intersection shortly after the hour of the kidnaping Thursday afternoon.

"Let me out of here. I want to go home," Klement quoted the girl as crying. He said a man and a woman were walking away from the car, and that the man returned and either threw a blanket over the girl or struck her. Klement did not connect the incident with the disappearance of Georgia Jean until today.

Posses Search Area

Posses, which at times numbered 1,000 persons, were searching rural areas of western Jefferson and eastern Dane counties, investigating abandoned buildings, probing under culverts, and tracking thru wooded areas.

The last person who reported seeing the girl was Mrs. Carl Floerke, a neighbor of the Wecklers, who drove Georgia Jean home from the Oakland Center school and let her out of the car at 3:30 p. m. Thursday, at the entrance to the Weckler farm on U. S. highway 12, six miles west of here.

Mrs. Floerke said the girl took the Wecklers' mail from the mailbox at

the roadside and started down the one-half mile gravel lane to her home.

Three boys aiding the posses, including the missing girl's brother, La Vern, 12, found a footprint in the lane which fitted her shoes, according to Sheriff George Perry of Jefferson county.

Says Girl Feared Kidnaping

A neighbor, Mrs. Ivan L. Jones, recalled that Georgia Jean had said after hearing of the kidnaping and slaying of Suzanne Degnan in Chicago that she had "always feared kidnaping." What prompted her fear was not known.

Sheriff Perry and the girl's father, who is the Oakland township treasurer, were still aiding in the hunt today altho both were near exhaustion, having gone without sleep since her disappearance.

The Wecklers have three other children, Joan, 10, Catherine, 16, and La Vern. All four were stricken with poliomyelitis last September, Georgia Jean being most severely stricken, but all recovered.